

## Cabinet: Item 11

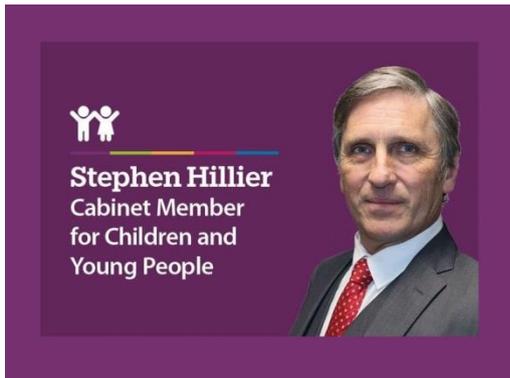
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(Links marked with an \* are to documents in pdf format)

### Cabinet Report: Delivering the West Sussex Plan 2017-22



## BEST START IN LIFE



### Families and children have a health family, home and work life

#### 1 Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision: Government Green Paper (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

The County Council responded to the Government's Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health Provision Green Paper, welcoming the opportunity it provides to advance the much needed transformation in mental health provision for children and young people across the country. In the response the County Council set out support for the proposals, stating that, whilst the focus on mental health support in education settings was welcomed, a greater emphasis on support outside the school environment will also be needed to ensure a balanced provision of support. In addition the response highlighted the need for greater recognition of the significant role that the voluntary and community sector has to play in the provision of mental health and emotional wellbeing services to children and young people. The Leader has written to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Mental Health and Inequalities, highlighting the County Council's response and the creative way in which the Council is working with partners to tackle the challenges faced in relation to increased and more complex demands on mental health services for children and young people.



### Children and young people feel safe and secure

#### 2 Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy 2018 to 2021 (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)

The new [Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy \(2018 to 2021\)\\*](#)

(Links marked with an \* are to documents in pdf format)

builds on and is developing the work started by the previous strategy (2014-17). It includes the County Council's commitment to being a successful corporate parent, working closely with partners in other public sector and voluntary organisations to provide the best possible outcomes for children and young people in its care. A particular strength of the new strategy is that it has been developed in consultation with the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Forum (CICC and CLF) ensuring that the 'voice of the child' is reflected throughout the strategy document. Actions are focused on improving life chances, outcomes and opportunities to enable young people to achieve their full potential. Importantly it recognises that the County Council cannot do this on its own. The strategy not only demonstrates the clear commitment of the County Council and its partners but it also articulates what each body, individually and collectively, is going to do. The progress made in implementing these actions will be monitored closely by interested groups, including the Corporate Parenting Panel, the CICC and CLF, to ensure the aims are being delivered.

### **3 Teasel Close Residential Children's Home retains Outstanding Ofsted rating (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)**

Following the annual Ofsted inspection, Teasel Close Residential Children's Home in Crawley has been rated Outstanding in all areas. This is the tenth year the home has retained this judgement making it one of the highest performing children's homes in the country. Teasel Close is a five-bed, mixed-gender unit for young people aged 12 to 16 years who have emotional and/or behavioural issues, making it difficult for them to live within a family environment. The Ofsted inspectors commended the strong leadership and 'outstanding' care delivered by a highly competent and skilled staff team which has enabled young people to make excellent progress over time. One of the home's strengths is the emphasis placed on education. Many of the young people who come to Teasel Close have a history of non-attendance at school but, through the work of the staff at the home, they become more engaged with education and go on to achieve some formal qualifications. The outcome of the inspection means seven out of the eight residential children's homes in West Sussex are currently rated either good or outstanding, offering children and young people living in these homes a stable, safe and secure environment and improving their ability to thrive.

### **4 Support for Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (Cabinet Member for Children and Young People)**

The County Council has been successful in securing additional funding to assist with supporting unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC). This has been obtained from the [Controlling Migration Fund](#), a government initiative designed to support local areas facing pressures linked to recent immigration. The monies, totalling £321,900 over two years, will enable the County Council to provide peer mentoring support to these young people and improve their access to and participation in education, employment and training opportunities. It will also enhance the support and training offered to foster carers and supported lodgings providers. This increases the number of providers with the skills necessary to provide a placement for support and care to this particularly vulnerable group of children and young people. The County Council aims to harness the views and experiences of UASC to inform and shape local services

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across the county, working with district and borough councils to support the young people become part of the communities which they now call home.



### **Access to education that meets the needs of our community**

#### **5 School Recruitment Fairs 2018 (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

The Education and Skills Directorate held two School Recruitment Fairs in February which were attended by approximately 600 people. The fairs were aimed particularly at Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs), those seeking routes to teaching and those interested in a support role in schools. The fairs also raised awareness about school governor positions and clerks. A shortage of applicants for teaching posts and teacher training remains a national problem and is reflected locally as schools in West Sussex have experienced difficulties when trying to recruit. Additionally a survey of NQTs commencing employment in West Sussex schools in September 2016 and 2017 indicated approximately 75% were based in the county prior to their training. Exhibitors at the fairs included Universities, West Sussex schools, Multi-Academy Trusts, County Council teams working in and with schools, and organisations providing apprenticeships and training. Whilst it is too early to assess the outcomes from the fairs, the one held in 2017 resulted in the recruitment of a chair of governors and two governing body clerks and anecdotal evidence suggests that a number of successful applicants for roles in West Sussex schools had attended the fair.



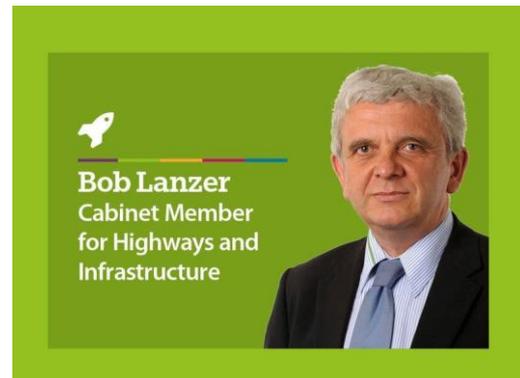
### **Children and young people are able to thrive**

#### **6 Inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Services in West Sussex (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

A joint Ofsted and Care Quality Commission Inspection of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Services has taken place. This is not solely a County Council inspection, but a local area inspection, and covers all partner agencies including education, social care and health. The aim of the inspection was to assess how effectively the needs of children and young people aged 0-25 years with SEND are identified and met, and what steps are being taken to improve outcomes. The assessment of effectiveness covered a range of organisations and providers in the local area including the County Council, Clinical Commissioning Groups, health providers, Public Health, early years settings, schools and further education providers. As well as meetings with a range of managers, practitioners, parent carers and children and young people, inspectors visited a number of teams, settings, schools and nurseries throughout West Sussex. The engagement of all of the individuals involved throughout the inspection provided the opportunity to demonstrate the strong partnership working and clear drive to give children and young people with SEND the best start in life. The outcome of the inspection is not graded in the same way as an Ofsted school inspection. The findings are reported in a detailed letter that outlines areas of strength and key priorities for improvement.



## A PROSPEROUS PLACE



### A place where businesses thrive

#### **7 Local Enterprise Partnership – Strategic Economic Plan (Leader/ Economy)**

In March the Leader gave a presentation at the Westminster Social Policy Forum Seminar on 'The Future for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and delivering regional projects'. The Leader highlighted that it was key for local authorities to continue to work in partnership with LEPs to identify opportunities and unlock housing, infrastructure and economic growth for local communities. She also highlighted how LEPs and local authorities needed to continue to work together to create resilient and flexible local economies and businesses and provide strong leadership in preparation for Brexit. The Coast to Capital LEP is developing a new Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) to outline the strategy for economic growth in the region to 2030, taking into account the evolving economic and political landscape. The County Council has responded to the consultation to ensure that the SEP continues to support the County Council's priorities and promote economic growth in West Sussex. The new SEP is programmed to be adopted in summer 2018.



### Infrastructure that supports a successful economy

#### **8 Winter Resilience and Mobilisation (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)**

So far this winter the gritter fleet has been mobilised more than 50 times using approximately 7,000 tons of de-icing road salt. During the snow in early March the County Council's contractor adopted 12 hours on/12 hours off shifts to maximise driver time and to ensure the road network was kept open and passable with care. Daily messages were sent to parishes to keep them informed about the latest Met Office forecast and the actions the County Council

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was taking. The County Council's policy was to ask them not to implement their Winter Management Plans given the accuracy of the forecasts available to the County Council. Notwithstanding this advice, some parishes undertook works on their own initiative which will not be funded by the County Council. Chichester District, Crawley Borough, Horsham District and Worthing Borough Councils tasked their staff to clear town centre precincts, with salt provided by the County Council. A review of the County Council's Winter Offer communications is to be undertaken at the end of the season to ensure that all authorities are aware of who is responsible for what and when.



### **A Place that provides opportunity for all**

#### **9 Real Time Passenger Information Displays (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)**

Over the last nine months a number of new real-time passenger information displays have been installed in West Sussex. These include:

- Seven displays in bus shelters in the High Street and Upper Bognor Road, Bognor Regis
- Four displays in bus shelters in West Street and Market Road, Chichester (additional displays are coming soon)
- A replacement summary display and five new bay displays at Horsham Bus Station
- An increase in the number of displays from 68 to 134 across Crawley as part of the Crawley Growth Programme.

The bus shelter-mounted displays give passengers live information on the arrival time of their bus along with news and weather. They also have an audio announcement facility to make bus travel easier for passengers with visual impairments, learning or reading difficulties. The displays have been funded by developer contributions from s106 agreements.



### **A skilled workforce for West Sussex**

#### **10 Apprenticeship Levy (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)**

The County Council remains committed to increasing the number of apprenticeships in the organisation which has benefitted greatly from being able to take on apprentices. The County Council is keen to promote apprenticeships locally and is looking to take advantage of the opportunity apprenticeships present to address some of the skills shortages it faces, particularly in its teaching and social worker workforce. The County Council has recently been awarded Employer Provider status, which will now allow the delivery of apprenticeships in-house and is working towards being able to deliver its first Level 2 apprenticeships in Social Care in 2018/19. There continue to be a number of challenges for the County Council; it has taken longer than expected to get approval on a number of new apprenticeship standards and this has resulted in problems with accessing levy money. The Cabinet Member has written to the Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills outlining these

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challenges, re-affirming the County Council's commitment to promoting apprenticeships and requesting an extension of the expiration period from 24 to 36 months for the Year 1 Apprenticeship Levy.

### **11 Recognition for Apprentices (Cabinet Member for Education and Skills)**

The achievements of West Sussex apprentices were celebrated at the recent Graduation Ceremony at Chichester Cathedral. Around 80 graduates attended the ceremony having completed an advanced or higher apprenticeship in subjects ranging from Social Care and Digital Marketing to Engineering and Technical Theatre and having worked for a West Sussex employer throughout their apprenticeship. The ceremony took place during National Apprenticeship Week; throughout the week there was a range of events organised across the county to highlight the multitude of different apprenticeships available and raise awareness that apprenticeships can be suitable for people of all ages and skill levels. The County Council provides opportunities with apprentice roles available in a range of disciplines including civil engineering, social care, law and IT.



### **A great place to live, visit and work**

### **12 Visitor Economy (Leader/Economy)**

The Leader hosted an event in March to enable local businesses to come together and work collaboratively to grow the West Sussex visitor economy. The 'Box of Delights' reception was part of the County Council's 'Experience West Sussex' programme, working with partners to promote the county as a great place to visit. It focused on establishing how local businesses can work together to attract more visitors out of peak seasons and encourage more visitors to stay overnight in West Sussex. The Experience West Sussex marketing campaign for 2018 will see the launch of a new website, social media activity and PR campaigns to promote the county's offers, activities and businesses through a range of marketing themes and build on its current social media presence. In addition to the marketing activities, the County Council will continue to work with businesses to develop new offers and experiences to attract visitors to West Sussex.

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# A STRONG, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE PLACE



### A healthy place

#### **13 Cycling Initiatives (Cabinet Member for Environment)**

The County Council is currently working on a number of new initiatives to improve the experience for cyclists across the county. These include:

- Working with the South Downs National Park Authority, looking into the extension of Centurion Way and a potential new route between Midhurst and Petersfield.
- A phased construction of a new shared cycle and footway between Findon and Findon Valley in the new financial year. Following this a feasibility study will be undertaken looking at the scope of extending the path to Washington. If completed, this would create a shared pedestrian cycle route between Worthing and the South Downs.
- A feasibility study will commence in the new financial year looking at facilitating cycling on the Jubilee Path in Midhurst. This will also look at the potential to upgrade footpaths on the Cowdray Estate to connect to North Street and Easebourne.

The Cabinet Member will keep members updated as these schemes progress.

#### **14 Defra's Air Quality Grant for Local Community Projects (Cabinet Member for Environment)**

The County Council, alongside other members of the Sussex Air Quality Partnership, from East Sussex County Council, Brighton & Hove City Council, and Adur, Chichester, Crawley, Horsham, Lewes, Mid Sussex and Worthing District/Borough Councils have successfully bid for £105,900 from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' (Defra's) Air Quality Grant which is part of the Government's £255m Implementation Fund. The Partnership's bid was one of 16 successful bids and will be used for targeted interventions with 25 schools and businesses in the Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) across Sussex to:

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- Reduce engine idling during school drop-off and pick-up times
- Encourage walking and cycling to school
- Reduce local emissions from fixed and mobile plant
- Deliver eco-driver training to staff working in the 25 selected schools and businesses in the AQMAs, as well as a number of other targeted initiatives.

The actions will be included in the Countywide Air Quality Action Plan currently being produced. Members will have a chance to input into this Plan at the Member Day on 25 April.



### **Strong communities**

#### **15 Dementia Action Week 2018 (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)**

This year, Dementia Awareness Week is changing to Dementia Action Week (21 to 27 May). The Alzheimer Society's national campaign has always aimed to raise awareness and offer support, but this year the focus is on action to make change happen for people affected by dementia. In the UK, one person develops dementia every three minutes, yet too many people feel excluded and face the disease alone. Dementia Action Week will be asking people to unite and take actions big and small to make a difference to the everyday lives of people with dementia. Suggestions include things as simple as being more patient in queues or helping make businesses more dementia-friendly. The Cabinet Member is keen to support the campaign and the work that is taking place to make local communities dementia friendly and has made arrangements to go to a dementia seminar and to visit community support initiatives in the county.

#### **16 West Sussex Fire Cadets (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)**

On 7 March the West Sussex Fire Cadets represented the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (WSFRS) at a Uniformed Services Launch Parade at Northbrook Metropolitan College (MET). The 16-strong cadet troop made up of both female and male students was formed in September 2017 when WSFRS established a partnership with Northbrook MET to commence a new Combined Cadet Force. The Fire Cadets joined 55 other cadets at the parade, along with their families, high-ranking officers from the emergency services and the armed forces, including the County Council's Chief Fire Officer who carried out inspections of the fire cadets' kit. Throughout their training the cadets visited Worthing Fire Station every Wednesday afternoon to experience the practical aspects of firefighting and also learn about community safety and prevention work, a large and vital part of a modern-day firefighter's role. The skills gained will stand them in good stead for supporting their communities and for any future employment in the emergency services.

#### **17 Fire Services support for gender equality (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)**

On International Women's Day (8 March), West Sussex, East Sussex and Surrey Fire and Rescue Services joined in pledging their support for gender equality. This was part of the global 'HeForShe' movement, which calls for men to take action against inequality towards women. The event was hosted by the Chief

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Fire Officer for East Sussex who welcomed representatives from across the three services that had made the pledge and raised the flag in support for HeForShe. The Chief Constables of Sussex Police, and Surrey Police were also at the event, in support of the fire and rescue services as they pledged to become HeForShe advocates, and agreed to work closely with emergency services colleagues, to take action together and be involved in creating a gender equal world. For more information about the HeForShe movement, visit [www.heforshe.org/en](http://www.heforshe.org/en).

### **18 Operation Watershed (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)**

The County Council's Operation Watershed fund, which supports community groups to act against flooding and reduce flood risk locally, was nominated for a national Local Government Chronicle Award but was unfortunately unsuccessful. Since the inception of Operation Watershed, the County Council has successfully supported local communities by working with nearly 150 groups and funding more than 360 projects to a value in excess of £3m. By the end of the financial year Operation Watershed is on course to award all of the allocated £500,000 to community groups, funding more than 50 applications. The average award per application for 2017/18 is just over £9,500. Recently the Operation Watershed Team have carried out a Community Questionnaire and it provided some positive feedback:

- 75% of community groups found that Operation Watershed met their expectations well or extremely well
- 75% of community groups stated that community interest and activity will be sustained past the life of the Operation Watershed programme

Next year there will be £300,000 of Operation Watershed capital funding available for communities via the Active Community Fund.



### **Sustainable environment**

### **19 Waste Week 2018 (Cabinet Member for Environment)**

The County Council's Waste Management team initiated a campaign to cut down the use of single-use plastics in March. Employees and residents were challenged to #PassOnPlastic and find an alternative for plastic items they would usually use just once and then throw away. Items such as plastic bottles, straws, cups, packaging, bags and cling film were targeted. Staff were asked to make a pledge to show their commitment to #PassOnPlastic. More than 800 employees and members took part and between them made over 2,000 pledges, including more than 500 pledges made to 'pass on' using takeaway coffee cups alone.



### **A place of culture, heritage and beauty**

### **20 Queen Victoria Hospital East Grinstead Archive Project (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)**

An archive of national and international importance has been created at the

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Queen Victoria Hospital, funded by a £72,000 grant from the Wellcome Trust. The archive includes 15,000 patient case-files, including those of 675 Second World War air force personnel known as the Guinea Pig Club. These have been catalogued and digitised. The archive also records the pioneering work of Sir Archibald McIndoe in the development of plastic and reconstructive surgery. Outreach work to promote the collection is now underway and a touring exhibition will travel the County Council's libraries during 2018.

### **21 100 Suffrage Pioneers: Jane Cobden (Leader)**

Jane Cobden (1851 to 1947), a prominent suffragette from Heyshott, has been included in the Women's Local Government Society List of 100 Suffrage Pioneers published on International Women's Day (8 March), as nominated by the West Sussex Record Office. This was one of the events to celebrate the passing of the Representation of the People Act on 6 February 1918, which granted women the right to vote. Jane Cobden, daughter of the Liberal MP Richard Cobden and who shared her father's radical beliefs, sense of social justice and reforming zeal, was a Liberal politician in her own right and one of the first two women elected to the inaugural London County Council in 1889. She was also a member of the National Society for Women's Suffrage and the Women's Franchise League and a supporter of the Women's Tax Resistance League. Her story is told in the Cobden Archives available at the Record Office in Chichester. In addition, as part of the national events to mark this year's anniversaries of women's suffrage, the Leader was joined by other female county councillors on 27 March to receive the national suffragette flag, as part of a tour of photo opportunities at different diplomatic and government locations.



## **INDEPENDENCE FOR LATER LIFE**



### **A good place to grow old**

### **22 Improvements in the Care System (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)**

The County Council is continuing its efforts to lobby for improvements in the care system and influence the content of the forthcoming Green Paper on Adult Social

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Care. The Cabinet Member has recently submitted evidence to the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee which undertook an inquiry on Adult Social Care Workforce. Her response highlighted that:

- Care work needs to become a professional career and remunerated sufficiently. This requires national co-ordination with central government leadership
- Greater transparency is needed about the performance of individual residential homes, to enable prospective residents and their families to be more informed customers
- The Government should require care home providers to fund an ABTA-style insurance scheme to cover the costs associated with moving residents when care homes fail, to ensure that residents who self-fund are not adversely affected financially.

The Public Accounts Committee held an oral evidence session on 28 February as part of its inquiry, taking evidence from the Department of Health and Social Care, Skills for Care, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care. The Cabinet Member will continue to monitor outcomes and inform members as appropriate.

### **23 Care Homes and Care Services: Usual Maximum Rates and Fees for Adult Social Care (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)**

As part of the County Council's ongoing work to ensure the sustainability of the care market, meet statutory obligations under the Care Act and ensure sufficiency of supply, the Cabinet Member has recently approved the annual usual maximum rates and fees for Adult Social Care: Care Homes and Care Services, informed by evidence from the market and commissioning intentions. These rates and fees are paid to independent providers of adults' social care for provision in the community and in residential and nursing homes for people whose care is funded by the Council. All customer groups are included i.e. Learning Disability, Physical Disability, Mental Health, Dementia and Physical Fragility (age-related). The County Council has to agree fees which are affordable to the public purse, takes into reasonable consideration its own finances alongside those of the market.



### **Older people have opportunities to thrive**

### **24 Community Reablement Service (Cabinet Member for Adults and Health)**

A contract for a new Community Reablement Service has recently been awarded to the provider Essex Cares Limited (ECL). Reablement is a service offered to residents who need to retain or regain skills and confidence after experiencing an illness or a crisis and aims to enable them to continue to live as independently as possible in their home. As well as supporting people coming out of hospital, the service also provides assistance for people in the community who have difficulty with daily tasks. The new contract is outcome-focused, with an emphasis on working towards what the customer wants to achieve and what being 'well and independent' means to them, for example, being able to walk their dog again, or

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attend church. Since the beginning of the contract ECL has already recorded over 300 service users. The County Council will be working closely with ECL to monitor the service, ensuring it meets the needs of the customer and supports the development of Health and Social Care across West Sussex.



## A COUNCIL THAT WORKS FOR THE COMMUNITY



### Customer focused

#### **25 Government and Parliamentary Engagement (Leader)**

Following the budget debate at County Council in February, the Leader has written to West Sussex MPs to set out the impact that a negative Revenue Support Grant will have on the County Council in future years. As currently planned, in 2019/20 the County Council will be paying £2.6m (an equivalent of 0.6% rise in council tax), to subsidise local government services elsewhere in England. The Leader has spoken to the Minister for Local Government at the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to highlight the County Council's financial challenges. The Leader and Henry Smith MP have also met the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to discuss Business Rates retention, Housing Infrastructure Fund and Local Government Finance. In addition, the Leader has responded to the joint Health and Social Care Committee and Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee Inquiry on the long-term funding of adult social care. The response highlighted that a long-term solution for adult social care funding will require strong political consensus and ideally, cross-party agreement on the way forward. It also emphasised that it will be essential that any proposals take a system-wide view and that this includes democratic accountability at a local level. In addition, the response was used as an opportunity to highlight that the Care and Support Green Paper will offer a valuable opportunity to make big decisions about universal services, the level of financial contribution individuals should be making to their own care and whether a more specific taxation regime

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should be implemented to bring consistency and sustainability to adult social care. The Leader will continue to lobby MPs and Ministers to provide the very best outcomes for West Sussex Residents.

### **26 Customer Service Centre Launch (Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure)**

The Contact Centre has been relaunched as the Customer Service Centre. In 2014 the Highways Customer Service Hub moved into the Contact Centre resulting in significant improvements in the customer journey. Before the hub was in existence, highways officers managed 89% of all customer contact, with 39% of customers having to request updates - this is now reduced to 13%. This has been achieved by providing more information and training and effectively combining the front and back office teams. The Contact Centre has changed since it was launched in 2004, when the team only took calls for three services. It now supports 37 services and in the last 12 months took 360,000 calls and responded to 51,000 emails. As the Customer Service Centre continues to grow, new technology will be implemented to enable customers to self-serve, making it easier for them to get the help when they need it.



### **Listens and acts upon**

### **27 Loss of Water Supply (Cabinet Member for Safer, Stronger Communities)**

The County Council formed part of a multi-agency response to a loss of water supply to properties in the county which for some residents started on 3 March. Both the Southern and South East Water Companies suffered significant water outages due to major system leaks. This followed the thaw from the previous extreme cold weather event. Those residents initially affected lived in the Bolney, Warninglid, Burgess Hill, Turners Hill and Cuckfield areas of Mid Sussex. Approximately 21,000 properties and 50,000 residents were without water. The County Council's Resilience and Emergencies Team (RET) co-ordinated the county's response to the loss of water supply which was declared a major incident by Sussex Police on 6 March and later escalated to include areas within Crawley and Manor Royal affecting a further 13,000 to 14,000 properties. The County Council's response was pro-active ensuring that residents were safe and their concerns listened to and appropriate action taken. RET supported by members of other directorates within the County Council, contacted over 1,000 vulnerable members of the community to provide reassurance and practical assistance. RET arranged the delivery of tens of thousands of bottles of drinking water and gave advice on potential public health issues.

### **28 What Matters to You Survey (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)**

The 'What Matters to You?' survey will be launched later this month and is aimed at engaging with residents on the priorities as set out in the West Sussex Plan. The last survey took place in summer 2016 and the issue most commonly selected as a priority was 'keeping you safe' followed by 'providing education and schools'. A common theme was also improving and upgrading infrastructure and roads throughout the county. As a result the West Sussex Plan includes the

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priorities:

- Best Start in Life
- A Prosperous Place
- A Strong, Safe and Sustainable Place
- Independence for later life
- A council that works for the community

The next step is to ask residents for their views on what areas need emphasis now and to ensure that these priorities are promoted in the future. An extensive programme of engagement is planned, including use of social media, libraries, West Sussex 'Connections' and the County Council's website. There will be communication about the survey with the business community as well as the district and borough councils across the county. There will also be a specific focus on groups of people who have been historically hard to reach. County Local Committees will host specific events and members will have the opportunity to consider the results of the survey in the autumn as part of the budget planning process for 2019/20.



### Works in partnership

#### **29 Pension Fund Pooling (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)**

All Local Government Pension Scheme Funds are required by the Government to pool assets. The ACCESS Pool (A Collaboration of Central Eastern and Southern Shires) has been created. Eleven local authorities make up the ACCESS Pool with combined assets under management of £40.6bn as at 31 March 2017. The investments are managed on behalf of over 2,600 active employers and over 984,000 members. Link Fund Solutions Ltd has been appointed as the 'Operator', which represents the culmination of a detailed procurement process involving each of the ACCESS authorities and co-ordinated by procurement specialists at Kent County Council. Link Fund Solutions Ltd will be responsible for establishing and operating an Authorised Contractual Scheme for the ACCESS pool, along with the creation of investment sub-funds, and the appointment of investment managers to those sub-funds. This appointment represents a key milestone in allowing progress towards pooling.

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#### **Background Papers**

None